

## HOUSE RESOLUTION 374

By Shipley

A RESOLUTION to recognize the grand opening of the Anderson Treehouse.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly pause to recognize those estimable community programs and projects that improve the lives of children with physical, developmental, and sensory disabilities; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy project is the Anderson Treehouse, which was developed by the National Center for Boundless Playgrounds and will be having its grand opening on May 27, 2010; and

WHEREAS, approximately five million children between the ages of five and twelve in the United States have some type of disability that makes it difficult or impossible for them to play on a traditional playground, and one out of nine children in the Tri-Cities region has some type of disability; and

WHEREAS, established in 1997 as a nonprofit organization, The National Center for Boundless Playgrounds partners with local and state governments, park departments, school systems, hospitals, businesses, civic organizations, and individuals to develop play environments that are uniquely configured to provide inclusive play and remove the barriers that limit childhood exploration and development; and

WHEREAS, because playtime is a fundamental aspect of childhood and playgrounds are laboratories for children, Boundless Playgrounds projects, including Anderson Treehouse, combine rigorous, challenging, developmentally advantageous, and sensory-rich activities with full integration and universal accessibility to allow children of all ages and all abilities to laugh, play, grow, and learn together, regardless of physical, sensory, or developmental disability; and

WHEREAS, designed so that more than 70% of the playground is universally accessible to children with physical disabilities, Anderson Treehouse is the first of its kind in the nation to be situated inside a state park and has already become a model for playgrounds across the country; and

WHEREAS, with over 500 children able to daily enjoy the playground's universal accessibility, Anderson Treehouse will certainly become a treasured destination for families across a four-state region; and

WHEREAS, this magnificent endeavor would not have been possible without the generous and tireless support of countless individuals, small businesses, civic clubs, churches, and major corporations throughout the community; and

WHEREAS, Anderson Treehouse's play environment will encourage the social, emotional, physical, and cognitive growth of each child who experiences its barrier-free layout, and the children and families of the Tri-Cities region will undoubtedly benefit from its unique design; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby join with the Tri-Cities community and the people of this great State to honor and recognize the opening of the new Anderson Treehouse, gratefully commending all of the individuals, organizations, and businesses who made this dream into a reality.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.